



DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY

Over Twenty Five Years of Service to America's Diverse Communities

An International Culture of Health – A New Generation's Discourse: Dialogue on Diversity's 2016 Symposium on Health Care

PRESS ADVISORY

Contact: Claire Moreno 703-631-0650

Washington, D.C. – May 21, 2016. Dialogue on Diversity's Health Care Symposium, presented this year, on May 18th at the Oceanic Suite in the Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center, “zeroes in with a score of experts,” said Ma. Cristina Caballero, President, “on the essential facets of Health Care in an age of newly ascendant Information Technology, acute disparities in wealth and health care opportunity, and the beginnings of new forms of access and treatment and insurance for the previously underserved swaths of the American population.”

The Program highlight was the appearance of **Dr. Eliseo Pérez-Stable**, the newly inaugurated Director of the Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities at the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Pérez-Stable reviewed the demographic disadvantages often closing off effective access for Latino and other ethnic groups to the country's health resources – the toxic effects that can fairly be named “disparities”. Following his own remarks Dr. Pérez-Stable, on behalf of Dialogue on Diversity, presented its **2016 Health Leadership Award** to the dynamic Founder of Latinas Contra Cancer, **Ysabel Durón**, long a news broadcaster on San Francisco television, and a former cancer sufferer herself, now the full-time advocate and organizer of the rapidly growing body of the services and influence of Latinas Contra Cancer in the public square.

The District of Columbia Office on Latino Affairs was represented in welcome addresses by its Deputy Director, **Julio Güity Guevara, Esq.**, and its Grants Manager **Eduardo Perdomo**.

Dr. Adrian Gropper, Chief Technology Officer for the Patients' Privacy Rights organization (Dr. Gropper holds both an M.D. and an engineering degree, affording us the benefit of intersecting lines of expertise) reviewed facts and fables on the often “Byzantine” IT operation on the health-care scene. **Scott Weinstein**, Washington health care law attorney, weighed in on the IT problematic from the point of view of provider reimbursement under Medicare and other insurance plans.

Pharmaceuticals were the key topic for a following session, with **Martin Mendoza** of the FDA holding forth on the agency's work, especially, as it is in large part a “consumer protection” entity, in matters of representation of diverse demographics in the crucial clinical trials. **Jason Resendez** heading the Latinos Against Alzheimer's Coalition, noted the higher incidence of the malady among Latinos and called for increased research funding and more Latino representation in clinical trials to permit design of more accurately targeted pharmaceuticals.

With a focus on health care provision to otherwise underserved populations at the neighborhood level, **Traci Harrison** of the District of Columbia's Unity Health Care organization, and **Fatema Salam** of Patient Centered Primary Care, based in D.C. but evolving model neighborhood health care centers for replication around the country, sketched a vision of what health care may be with effective access across the board of ethnic and social-class households. An international health dimension was added in the remarks of **Sr. Julián Escutia Rodríguez**, head of consular services at the Embassy of Mexico, discussing the Ventanillas de Salud (windows of health) program and information facility for Mexican nationals *and others* in and beyond the borders of the Mexican homeland. In additional sharp-focus presentations **Susan Gaffney** of the National Alliance on Mental Illness sketched the keys to effective treatment for these disorders, while **Teresa Niño** of the Citizenship and Immigration Services agency described structured patterns of neighborhood welcome for immigrant newcomers.

In a key morning session **Karen Davenport**, a health care law expert, reviewed a string of (so far unsuccessful) legal challenges to the Affordable Care Act, the most recent of these the District Court holding disallowing certain payments to insurers for excess payouts. **Jeanette Contreras**, of CMS, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (part of HHS), offered added commentary on the state of the ACA's operations, reporting continually robust enrollment numbers and the resultant effects in lowering the country's uninsured figures to unprecedented levels – a historic achievement on the U.S. scene.

Jacqueline Watson, Chief of Staff at the D.C. Department of Health, brought into the Department to serve in its innovative and systematizing régime, noted the new structure of the department. Of chief current concern, the Department is swiftly turning its attention to the potential mosquito-borne Zika virus, the District of Columbia being one of the endangered localities in the US. One of the classic DOH divisions, or Administrations, is that of Epidemiology, headed by **Dr. John Davies-Cole**, who followed Ms. Watson on the Symposium agenda. Dr. Davies-Cole offered a detailed statistical summary, Ward by Ward, on a number of the District's pertinent demographic metrics. The sum of these factors imparts a clear tone or “network effect” to each neighborhood.

2016 Symposium sponsors were CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield, Southwest Airlines, the D.C. Office on Latino Affairs, and others.

About Dialogue on Diversity: Dialogue on Diversity is a national network of women entrepreneurs and professionals,, civil society staff and executives, and others with a lively policy concern, bringing together diverse ethnic and cultural communities for interchange of ideas, on social and public policy issues. Dialogue on Diversity is a §501(c)(3) organization.

Office: 1629 K Street, N.W., Suite 300 Washington, D.C. 20006 Tel: [FfxVa] 703-631-0650 Fax: [FfxVa] 703- 631-0617

e-mail: dialog.div@prodigy.net www.dialogueondiversity.org Dialogue on Diversity is a 501(c)(3) Organization. Contributions are tax-deductible